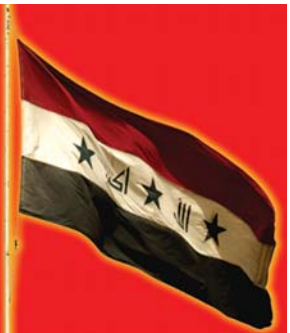




THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



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Photo by Spc. Barbara Ospina

Unit commanders and command sergeants major from the 116th BCT finish casing their unit colors during the transfer of authority ceremony Monday.

101st's 1st BCT takes over authority for Kirkuk area base

By 116th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK — The 116th Brigade Combat Team relinquished authority for operations in its assigned north-central Iraq sector to the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during a ceremony here, Monday.

The transfer of authority ceremony recognized the service and accomplishments of the 116th BCT in the Iraqi provinces of Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah this past year and officially transferred authority to the 1st BCT.

"This ceremony marks the commitment of America in ensuring freedom and democracy exist in Iraq," said 116th BCT Commander Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart during his remarks at the event. "This ceremo-

ny is also a tribute to the service, commitment and sacrifice of the Soldiers and family members of these two great brigades."

Attendees at the event included outgoing commander Gayhart, incoming 1st BCT Commander Col. David Gray and the commanders of both the 42nd and 101st Divisions. Special invitees also included numerous Iraqi dignitaries, press and religious leaders. The formations at the event included units of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police Services, as well as Soldiers from both the 116th and 1st BCTs.

"Brig. Gen. Gayhart, you, Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis, and the thousands of Warrior Soldiers under your command, have played a significant role in the history of the Iraqi people and their emerging freedom," said Gray in his speech. "Your

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CG's Weekly Message ...

By Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

Multi-National Force - Iraq Commanding General

As of this week 211,000 Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) are trained, equipped and joining the fight for their country. Of that number approximately 110,000 are police, border enforcement and police commandos; and around 100,000 are Iraqi Army, Navy, Air Force and combat support, service support units. Systematically the ISF are being constructed to meet the needs of the country and follow the plan to take the lead ... and increasingly ISF are doing just that. Since February of this year the Coalition has closed 29 bases around the country and transferred 16 of those bases to the Iraqi Army for its use. Additionally, the Iraqi Army is assuming battle space (in other words taking responsibility for a geographic area) at an ever-increasing rate.

Remember, as of May 2003 there was literally no Iraqi military. Since then one division, four brigade headquarters and 23 battalions are leading operations in the field, and dozens more are fighting along side their Coalition partners.

Across the country approximately 25 percent of operations are ISF independent operations. Right here in Baghdad security and offensive operations have reached a steady state where increasingly Iraqi Forces operate independently almost 50 percent of the time. This increased independence is in part due to two Iraqi Army brigades owning independent battlespace in the city and three public order battalions and two commando battalions operating primarily within Baghdad.

Not only are Iraqi Forces increasingly in the lead, but confidence in security continues to show signs of improvement. One measure of this confidence is the increased use of the TIPS hotline. Concerned Iraqi citizens are taking their streets, neighborhoods and towns back by providing information on insurgent activities, locations and weapons cache. TIPS totaled almost 5,000 for the month of September and October data promises to be equally impressive. Increased TIPS activity, and increased intelligence gathered from Iraqi citizens, is part of the reason for approximately 150 cache finds around Iraq last month and 27 bomb makers captured or killed.

None of this is by accident, and it is not happening overnight. However, it is happening at a planned, steady and unrelenting pace. Increasingly a better security environment provided by Iraqi forces is allowing Iraqi citizens to feel more confident in reporting on insurgent activity and allowing them to take back their country from the insurgents — one day at a time.



Gen. George W. Casey Jr.



Courtesy photo

Medics from 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry treat and evacuate Iraqi Soldiers and civilians Oct. 11 in the Khadra District of western Baghdad.

10th Mountain Division medics' training shows

By Spc. Carlos Caro
1st Battalion, 87th Infantry

CAMP LIBERTY, BAGHDAD — Thanks to their training in a Syracuse, N.Y., emergency room, U.S. Army medics from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division were a little better prepared to respond to the trauma of bomb attacks in Baghdad.

Not all victims are fellow Soldiers, either. "Many evacuees are civilians seriously wounded by insurgent attacks," said Capt. Doug Hermann, a medical officer with Company D, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry. "Because of their quick actions, these medics saved many lives."

During their first two months in Iraq, 1/87 medics treated and evacuated more than 20 seriously injured patients. Despite their accom-

plishments, the Soldiers remain humble and dedicated to their task.

"We're just doing what we can to save lives," said Sgt. Paul Roberts. "The medics are doing a great job supporting the mission. I'm very proud of these Soldiers."

Responding to terrorist attacks isn't always easy, said Hermann. However, the medics geared up for these kind of missions long before deploying to Iraq.

"One of the most important programs was trauma training at University Hospital in Syracuse," Hermann said.

"In an unprecedented program, University Hospital opened its doors to the 1/87 Infantry Medical Platoon. There, the medics experienced trauma care in the emergency room.

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1st COSCOM bids farewell to LSA Anaconda

Story and photo by
Pfc. Mark B. Matthews
27th Public Affairs Detachment

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA — Soldiers of 1st Corps Support Command said goodbye to LSA Anaconda upon successfully completing a year in Iraq and warmly welcomed the members of the 3rd Corps Support Command during a transfer of authority ceremony in front of the Joint Operations Command here Oct. 27.

“The reality is in this theater if you eat it, drink it or shoot it, you got it from a Corps Support Command, whether that be from 1st COSCOM or 3rd COSCOM,” said Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Multi-National Corps - Iraq commanding general. “The scope and scale of what they do is so vast that most of us can’t grasp it.”

The ceremony symbolized the end of



Brig. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, 1st COSCOM commanding general, is awarded the Legion of Merit by Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Multi-National Corps - Iraq commanding general.

one era and the beginning of another. However, the 1st COSCOM command said they were leaving with their mission in good hands, even though 3rd COSCOM still had their work cut out for them.

“It seems like only yesterday we were all in the MWR center taking over the mission

from 13th Corps Support Command,” said Brig. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, 1st COSCOM commanding general.

“Since then the 1st COSCOM troopers have traveled over 29 million miles on perilous roads in over 14,000 combat logistics patrols, issued almost 200 million gallons of fuel and eight million short tons of supplies.”

Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, 3rd COSCOM commanding general, thanked the 1st COSCOM Soldiers for their commitment to excellence over the past year.

“The 1st COSCOM was instrumental for shaping and sustaining the success of the Coalition, training and support the Iraqi Security Force, and making a difference in the lives, hopes and futures of the Iraqi people,” Halstead said.

“The 3rd COSCOM’s commitment is to honor the efforts and accomplishments of the 1st COSCOM and take the missions to the next level.”

Transfer—— from page 1

mission in Iraq was bookended by two landmark events: the elections of last January, where the government took its first democratic steps, and the recent constitutional referendum that will be remembered for its patriotism and debate rather than terrorism and violence.”

By completing a successful transfer of authority with the 1st BCT, the 116th BCT finished the latest chapter in the Coalition’s multi-faceted mis-

sion in north-central Iraq that includes training Iraqi Security Forces, sustaining Iraqi infrastructure and economic growth, aiding the fledgling Iraqi government, and fostering open communications with Iraqi citizens.

“We bid farewell to the many Iraqi friends we have made,” Gayhart said. “Your friendship and dedication to your citizens in a free and democratic Iraq will be with us forever. In our heart and minds, we will always be with you as you once again bring back Iraq to its greatness.”

Explosive work



Photo courtesy of Multi-National Division Central-South

Soldiers from the Ukraine and Kazakhstan prepare to dispose of more than 200,000 rounds of ammunition in the Al Kut area. The engineers are part of Task Force 81, Multi-National Division Central-South.

Iraqi Army Soldiers raid bomb-making factory in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Soldiers captured 10 suspected terrorists during a raid on a suspected bomb-making factory in Baghdad Oct. 20. The suspects were working in the facility when they were detained. They are now being processed by the Iraqi judicial system.

The Iraqi Army set up an outer cordon around the building and launched the raid at midday. Within minutes, the building had been searched and cleared by the Iraqi Soldiers. Task Force Baghdad Soldiers then entered and identified a truckload of materials used to



Courtesy photo

A triggering mechanism for a potential IED is shown.

make improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

An explosive ordnance disposal team followed and ensured it was safe to remove all the materials.

“The Iraqi Army appeared very confident in the execution of this mission,” said 1st Lt. Lauren Rowe, a military police officer in 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. “They acted very professionally and took ownership of the operation.”

The Iraqi Army developed the intelligence on the target and planned the operation.

29th Support Battalion forms ties with Iraqis

Story and photo by Sgt Lauran Robinson
29th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs



Spc. Korosetn Tauaa of 29th Support Bn., keeps a look out at an entry control point which is used by Iraqis commuting to work at LSA Anaconda.

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA — Soldiers of the 29th Support Battalion have prepared Iraqi Army Soldiers at the east entry control point on how to respond to medical emergencies.

The Soldiers of 3rd Company, Iraqi Army have been trained in rendering first aid and assisting in litter carry.

The training has proven to be a valuable lesson for the Iraqi Soldiers, as they have used it to rescue their fellow Soldiers involved in a car accident.

Two brothers in the Iraqi Army were coming to work when their vehicle rolled over near the east gate of LSA Anaconda.

The Soldiers of 29th Support Battalion and 3rd Company, Iraqi Army were nearby finishing their routine sweep along the road leading into the east entry control point when the accident occurred.

Iraqi Soldiers closest to the scene responded by providing first aid and brought the victims to the gate, leading into the post for further medical assistance.

The Soldiers continued rendering first aid on the brothers and provided security until a medic from the 29th Support Battalion was on scene.

The victims were then quickly transported to the Combat Support Hospital for further medical care.

The Iraqi Army Soldiers at the east entry control point were trained to respond to medical emergencies and were able to help rescue their fellow Soldiers.

"They are prepared to be the first responders because it is a war, and we have to be prepared" said Spc. Micheal Kekua of the 29th Support Bn. at the east entry control point.

One brother was badly injured and the other was in shock, but the quick response of the first responders helped the victims get the medical attention they needed.

Refurbished electrical network pays off in Betoul

By Maj. Paul Ashcraft
2nd Brigade Combat Team

BAGHDAD — Until recently, the fragile electrical distribution network in the northeast Baghdad neighborhood of Betoul was plagued with frequent outages and required rehabilitation in order to provide the people with a reliable power supply.

"The network suffered from a lack of maintenance, lack of funding and outdated equipment," said Lt. Col. S. Jamie Gayton, commander of 2nd Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

"Technicians and operators were challenged with maintaining an electrical distribution network that was ignored throughout the years of Saddam Hussein's

reign," he said.

To help raise the standard of living for area residents, the U.S. Army initiated a project in November 2004 to build an electrical network.

This entailed installing 11-kilovolt cable for 715 residential networks. It also included a 250-kilovolt transformer for every 40 houses, and the installation of 475 electrical poles. The contractor also installed street lights and 250-amp circuit breakers.

The project also marked the beginning of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army and the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity.

With the network complete, it still lacked the electrical feeder line to energize it. The Ministry of Electricity installed an 11-kilovolt feeder line from the Segeyer substation four kilometers away.

As the engineer responsible for infrastructure improvements in eastern Baghdad, Gayton pointed out another unique aspect of this particular project:

"Betoul is the first area where I have seen the municipality planning a neighborhood and establishing essential services before the neighborhood was built,



Courtesy photo

Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team inspect the new electrical network installed in the Betoul neighborhood.

enabling the neighborhood to grow into the service area rather than the services expanding to meet the neighborhood.

"This is a giant step in the right direction for the authorities to see the importance of neighborhood planning and the impact it can have on services provided to the great people of the area.

"The electrical distribution system in Betoul has changed the lives of all the residents ... They were rewarded this summer when a special electrical feeder was linked to the distribution network and the system was energized for the very first time."



Courtesy photo

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, working with the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity, rehabilitated the electrical network in Betoul.



Heroes of the Week

Soldier thwarts terrorist attack at Palestine Hotel

By Spc. Adam Musil
2nd Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD — The smoke had barely cleared from an earlier explosion near the Palestine Hotel Oct. 24 when a U.S. Soldier saw a cement truck bearing down on the hotel. Knowing the truck presented an immediate danger, he took aim with his weapon, fired and potentially saved lives.

Spc. Darrell Green, a machine gunner with 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, was pulling security from an observation post at the Sheraton when terrorists launched a coordinated attack at the Firdos Square traffic circle in downtown



Spc. Darrell Green

Baghdad.

The attack, which occurred in three phases, began at 5:25 p.m. when, under the cover of small-arms fire, a vehicle packed with explosives tried to pierce the defensive barriers between the Sheraton and Palestine hotels.

Seconds later, a vehicle moving toward the traffic circle from the east was engaged by a private security firm and immediately detonated.

Upon hearing the explosions



U.S. Army photo

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers look at the burned-out shell of a car bomb shortly after it detonated near the Palestine Hotel, Oct. 24.

of the first two vehicles, Green stood ready for what was to come. As dust and debris from the explosions subsided, he noticed the defensive barriers had been breached and a cement truck was heading through the gap, toward the Sheraton and Palestine hotel complex.

The vehicle was 50 feet past the breach when Green took aim and engaged the truck with his machine gun. As he shot and killed the driver, preventing the vehicle from going any further, the truck detonated.

"He was trying to kill people," Green said. "It was good we stopped him, because he would have killed more people and destroyed the building."

Once the attack was over, the area was secured by Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces.

Soldiers worked into the early hours of the morning repairing the breach in the wall. Soldiers and local residents are starting to get back into their regular routines. This includes Green, who plans on continuing his job, securing the hotel.



Heroes of the Week

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers form friendship from partnership

Story and photo by
Sgt. Lauran Robinson
29th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA — A Soldier from Company A, 29th Support Battalion has been able to overcome the challenges of working with one Iraqi Soldier, rewarding him with a new-found friendship based on trust and dedication.

Spc. Marc O'Reilly has been working with 'Gonzalez,' an Iraqi Soldier from 3rd Platoon, Iraqi National Guard at the north entry control point since April 2005.

The two Soldiers from different forces share the same mission, to enforce security and deny entry into Logistical Support Area Anaconda to enemy forces.

Working together, the Soldiers have

gained respect for one another and developed a tight brotherhood.

"I trust him with my back. [Gonzalez] is a hard worker and takes the initiative to do what needs to be done. I always look forward to working with him," said O'Reilly.

The two Soldiers have shared stories and have learned more about each others' cultures.

O'Reilly was invited to Gonzalez's wedding a few months ago. They have exchanged their native food and drinks.

Soldiers working side by side with the Iraqi Army face challenges such as language barriers, different work ethics, as well as cultural diversities.

The close working relationship that has developed among the two Soldiers working the north entry control point has built a friendship that each can reflect back on for years to come.



Ahmed of 3rd Platoon Iraqi Army searches a local national at the north entry control point of LSA Anaconda.



Coalition Partners



Iraqi Security Forces develop in area of responsibility

Story by Lt. Cmdr. Bartosz Zajda
Multi-National Division Central-South Public Information

At the beginning of the mission in Iraq Multi-National Division Central-South (MND-CS) conducted purely stabilizing tasks. The mission was "to establish secure environment in the area of responsibility for future economic and social developments." The situation in Iraq has been developing since the MND-CS was established. The development caused the evolution of the division's mission. The mission character is gradually evolving from stabilization to training and stabilization and consequently to purely training profile.

Nowadays training and advising the Iraqi Army is the priority of MND-CS fifth rotation. In the MND-CS structures there are special instructors groups called MiTT – Military Transition Teams. As a result of training, 8th IA units started fulfilling their

tasks more independently to provide security environment for Iraqi society.

Recently, six battalions of the 8th Iraqi Army Division completed certification towards the goal of full-independent combat readiness.

The main elements of the training process included counter insurgency operations, which encompassed cordon and search techniques, checkpoints, patrolling and convoy protection. Tactical training such as weapons proficiency, engineering, communication, medical support and logistics also contributed to the overall certification process. The units of the 8th Division will continue to move forward to certification at the brigade and divisional level as they undergo additional training by MND-CS MiTTs.

Since early 2005, battalions from the 8th Division have conducted more than 100 operations that resulted in significant numbers of illegal weapons seized and the



Iraqi officers plot a location on a map during certification.

apprehension and detention of numerous persons suspected of terrorist activities. One of the best examples of the results of training and preparations was the security during referendum.

Thanks to the Iraqi Security Forces and MND-CS common efforts, there were no terrorist attacks in that time. One can say, even before the referendum, results announcement, that Iraqi Security Forces won that referendum providing the effective security and safety conditions.

To provide such an effective safe environment during referendum time, Iraqi Security Forces put a lot of effort in the preparation process. ISF in cooperation with MND-CS units conducted many common trainings, crisis situation simulations, logistics and engineering works. MND-CS supported ISF in Babil, Diwaniyah and Wasit provinces in the preparation process.

These successful operations remain another key indicator of the courage and commitment of 8th Iraqi Army Division Soldiers to secure a safe Iraq for all of its people.

Statistics:

Since the beginning of the training process, 20,000 officers (Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Border Police) have been trained.

Since the beginning of the fifth rotation (August 2005):

I. Training hours: 3,656 hours; and

II. 3,000 Soldiers and Iraqi Border Police officers trained.

The scope of the 8th Iraqi Army Division Training includes:

– stabilization operations;

- antiterrorism actions;
- offensive operations;
- force protection;
- convoy protection;
- reconnaissance;
- search and cordon operations;
- police operations;
- civil-military cooperation (CIMIC);
- operation planning process;
- supplying the military units;
- protecting the bases;
- communication;
- engineering operations;
- military economy.

Insurgent sentenced for explosives possession

BAGHDAD — The Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) held 16 trials last week convicting 20 security detainees for various crimes including possession of illegal weapons, illegal border crossing and crimes against the security of the state.

One detainee was sentenced to life (20 years) imprisonment for possession or manufacture of explosives.

Upon conviction, all defendants are turned over to the Iraqi

Corrections Service to serve their sentences.

To date, the CCCI has held 672 trials of insurgents suspected of anti-Iraqi and anti-Coalition activities threatening the security of Iraq and targeting Multi-National Force - Iraq personnel. These proceedings have resulted in 621 individual convictions with sentences ranging up to 30 years imprisonment.

Procurement training boosts Iraqi contracting skills

By Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Multi-National Security
Transition Command - Iraq
Public Affairs

INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD — Dozens of Iraqi procurement specialists from the Ministries of Defense and Interior took part in a three-day training workshop featuring a nationally known Iraqi procurement expert.

The training, held here Oct. 24-26, was sponsored by the Joint Contracting Command Iraqi/Afghanistan, with support from the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq and the ministries.

"We're trying to establish the ministries capacity for operating an ethical, effective procurement system," said U.S. Army Maj. Jong Lee of the JCCI/A.

The training included a combination of lectures and practical exercises, focusing on areas such as ethics, the principles of procurement and the administration tendering and payment of contracts, Lee said.

Participants were divided into three groups for the hands-on exercise and given hypothetical scenarios, such as administering a life support contract for an Iraqi military installation. Each group had to work together to come up with solutions to the challenges of each sce-

nario and then present their work.

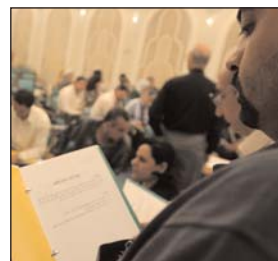
Although the training was arranged and largely supported by the Coalition, the majority of the instruction came from Iraqis, Lee said. Having Iraqi author Numan Salman participate in the training added an extra level of credibility, Lee said. Salman wrote "The Iraqi Procurement Book," which was published this year and is widely used in Iraqi government offices, particularly those in the ministries of defense, interior and science and technology, Lee said. Salman is also one of four fellows with the World Bank.

"What's presented here is not coming from the Coalition or from Americans," Lee said. "It's coming from Iraqis, for



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Ferdinand Thomas

Procurement specialists attending the Building Iraqi Procurement Capacity Course discuss contracting strategies in their small group.



An Iraqi man checks his notes while his small group discusses contracts in the procurement course.

Iraqi workers."

Salman said he agreed to take part in the workshop because he believes those working in procurement need as much training as possible to develop their

skills and gain more experience.

Procurement skills stagnated here after the 1990 embargo, which isolated Iraq from the majority of the world, Salman said.

"Iraq stayed in one place; now they need information about how this is being done in the world," Salman said. "For example, no one has opened a letter of credit since 1990. This is something they need to learn."

His second book, "General Guide for Procurement Administration," will be published soon, Salman said. It will include information on letters of credit, as well as procurement philosophy and policy.

One Iraqi woman who participated in the workshop said she found the training helpful. It provided her with additional information on writing contracts and making solicitations. "This gives us a good base to move forward from," she said.

Medics

from page 2

"They also received professional instruction from emergency room physicians and nurses," he said.

This training gave medics excellent preparation for their duties in Iraq, said Hermann, adding, "They worked with the staff of University Hospital and the Staff Judge Advocate's office of 10th Mountain Division to develop this program.

"It started because of a commitment from the 1/87 leadership to ensure our medics had every advantage possible to prepare them for deployment to combat," he said.

Hermann said he sought out University Hospital because it is the premier trauma center in central New York.

"Now that this is an established division program, I am confident that other medical platoons across 10th Mountain Division will benefit from it as much as 1/87 did," he noted. "University Hospital is committed to supporting our troops in a tangible way."

Now that they have a couple of months' experience in Baghdad's combat zone, the medics said they're glad they went through the training during their pre-deployment preparation.

"The benefit of the University Hospital emergency room training was that all of the medics had the opportunity to experience live trauma treatment in a controlled setting," said Sgt. Michael Singer.

"That's much better than having to experience your first live trauma in combat. The ER training helped better prepare us for the real deal," he said.

In Iraq, medics from 1/87 have already been faced with treating multiple combat wounds.

"The training at the hospital helped me get over the initial shock of seeing real traumatic injuries," said Pfc. William Pickett, who is on his first deployment. "The first time I had to treat a casualty, I just reacted as I've been trained.

"It was pretty weird being shot at while trying to treat someone," he added.



Coalition, Iraqi Security Forces

Operations Review



By Staff Sgt. Julie Nicolov
Multi-National Corps - Iraq
Public Affairs

As important as it is to capture and detain the terrorists who attack Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces every day, destroying their inventory of weapons and ammunition is part of the plan to secure Iraq.

Fifty-three enemy weapons caches were captured this week.

Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment seized a weapons cache in Tall Afar and detained seven suspected terrorists Oct. 25.

The cache consisted of hundreds of 7.62 mm rounds, 19 full AK-47 magazines, bayonets, AK-47s, hundreds of rounds of 12-gauge ammunition, black powder, bags of disassembled 12-gauge shotgun shells, multiple protective masks and 50 shotgun shells.

Elsewhere in the city, Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment seized two caches consisting of a rocket, multiple fuses, blasting caps, several mortar systems, mortar rounds and



Courtesy photo

A brilliant explosion erupts as combat engineers destroy several tons of captured ammunition and explosives.

tubes, AK-47s with ammunition, shotgun shells, and a scope during several operations on Oct. 24 and 25.

Two terrorists were also detained in the raids.

Soldiers from 3rd Iraqi Army Division alongside Soldiers from 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment seized three large weapons caches during separate operations in and around Tall Afar Oct. 23. The caches included over 100 mortar and artillery rounds, several rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) rounds, rockets, hundreds of rounds of small arms ammunition, an AK-47, improvised explosive device (IED) making material, and an RPG launcher.

Citizens of Tall Afar, emboldened by the greatly improved security situation here, are providing information that is leading to the capture of terrorists and the discovery of these weapons and military caches.

During one raid, citizens applauded ISF and CF troops as they led captured terrorists away.

According to Capt. Christopher Rizzo, a team leader in charge of destroying unexploded ordnance for 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, in an interview with Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta, public affairs noncommissioned officer, 42nd ID, capturing caches reduces the enemy's ability to resupply.

"These are rounds used for IEDs and indirect fire," Rizzo said. "What we do is supply

reduction. This denies [insurgents] use of this ordnance. We're making it safer for the Iraqi people by getting explosives out of their backyards."

More than 1,000 caches have been destroyed in the north central part of Iraq since Sept. 15.

In Baghdad, ISF and CF also found two IEDs before they could be detonated during operations on Oct. 22 and 23. Three terrorists were captured in the raids.

Iraqi police also found a potential IED Oct. 23 in the Al Bayaa area of Baghdad.

The IPs disengaged the device, which consisted of a 120-mm shell with TNT and small bottles of gas with nails and properly disposed of it before it could explode.

In addition to removing weapons from the hands of terrorists, ISF and CF continue to capture the terrorists who use them.

In the central south area of Iraq, a raid by Iraqi Special Operations Forces captured 21 insurgents including three targeted terrorists responsible for IED and vehicle-borne IED attacks, kidnapping Iraqi citizens and murder.

ISOF also confiscated an assortment of



Photo courtesy of Multi-National Division - Central South

Iraqi Army Soldiers take a break while keeping tactical formation during field exercises.

See **OPERATIONS**, next page

Joint Agriculture Conference at U.S. Embassy in Baghdad

By Group Capt. Ian Jamieson
Royal Australian Air Force

BAGHDAD — Iraq was once a large producer of agricultural products, renowned for its grains, its corn, the wool of its sheep, and the amount and variety of dates. Farmers once exported wheat, but now they must import over 3 million tons annually. Iraq used to be one of the top date producers in the world, exporting quality dates to demanding markets, but now exports mainly industrial grade dates for use as animal feed, syrup and oil. Twenty-five percent of Iraqis depend on a flailing public food distribution system subsidy for their survival. The reckless destruction of land, the neglect of infrastructure, and the misguided implementation of food subsidy programs under the Saddam regime destroyed capacity and stifled private initiative.

U.S. organizations and Coalition Forces are helping Iraq repair the irresponsibility of the past. Department of State created a Joint Agriculture Task Force, made up of DOS, MNF-I, MNC-I, U.S. Agency for International Development, United States Department of Agriculture, and Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office, with the responsibility for coordinating all USG efforts on Iraq's agricultural road to recovery. DOS/MNF-I held a Joint Agriculture Conference Oct. 25-27, at the U.S. Embassy to get these entities together to discuss the current initiatives in agriculture and produce a strategic, coordinated and mutually supportive plan for the way forward.

DOS, USAID and USDA brought in agriculture specialists, and MNF-I provided reservists: farmers from Mississippi and Ohio, an investment banker from Wall Street, a professor of

economics and several veterinarians.

The groups discussed seven agricultural sectors, including ways to improve live-stock production and veterinary services, high value cash crops including vegetables and dates, distribution of water resources, grain production, private sector agribusiness, public sector capacity development, and funding. Panelists gave presentations in their sectors on successes, failures, and lessons learned followed by a question and answer session.

The Task Force met the last day to create a planning document describing coordinated efforts between elements of the USG to improve the livelihood of Iraqis through development of the agriculture sector.

This planning document will be presented to agriculture representatives of the Iraqi government to ensure it meets their vision for the way ahead.

Operations

from previous page

propaganda, including some that mentioned specific units, a copy machine and various fake documents.

An independent ISOF raid in the Lakes region west of Iskandiriyah captured nine Ansar Al Sunna members, including three targeted terrorists, connected to the October murder of an Iskandiriyah city hall member and his bodyguards. They were also wanted in connection to multiple kidnappings and IED attacks against security forces.

Iraqi Army and police forces also captured 17 enemy gunmen and a large variety of weapons following the assassination of the sheik for the Iman Hussein Mosque in Balad Ruz.

During a combined raid in Baghdad, Iraqi Special Police and Coalition

Forces apprehended six men wanted in connection with anti-Iraqi activities.

The raid also netted weapons and fake identification cards, including passport-making materials.

ISF Soldiers captured a terrorist who may be connected to the attack on the Palestine Sheraton Hotel complex Oct. 24.

The Soldiers detained an individual for using a cell phone camera to make a recording of an Iraqi traffic control point. His cell phone had video footage of numerous important sites in Baghdad, including the Palestine Sheraton Hotel Complex which was attacked by three suicide car bombers.

"It looks like the Iraqi Army caught a scout for the terrorists today," said Capt. Chris Harris, a Task Force Baghdad officer who works with the Iraqi Army. "The performance of the Iraqi Army continues to impress me."

MNF-I Operations Summary Oct. 22 - 28



Combined operations: 220
IEDs found and cleared: 144
anti-Iraqi forces detained: 485
Foreign fighters captured or killed: 29
Weapons caches found and cleared: 53

Construction started on two projects providing 24-hour surveillance around the Bayji to Thar Thar oil fields, and the Thar Thar to Mashadata oil fields. Both projects are CERP—Commander's Emergency Response Program — funded, totaling more than \$1.5 million and are located in the Kirkuk and Sal ad Din Provinces, respectively. Each project entails security fencing and guard towers. Both projects are scheduled for completion February 2006, and employ an average of 20 Iraqi workers daily, constructing small sections at a time. Each oil field produces an average of 75,000 BPD of Crude Oil (point in time; not maximum production).

Iraqi Army Supply Services Institute teaches logistics

**Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux**
207th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

TAJI — The Iraqi Army Supply Services Institute (IASSI) was established in January of 2005.

It started off in a bombed out building, with a couple of tables and chairs, said Capt. David J. Kaczmarek, a liaison officer between the 46th Corps Support Group and the 1st Motorized Transportation Brigade, who is also known as the resident Iraqi affairs expert on Camp Taji.

The school was originally set up and staffed by the Australian Army. They arrived at Taji in November of 2004, starting to make arrangements for the school.

Since Camp Taji is run by the U.S. Army, it was inevitable that they provided maximum support for the Australians, he said.

Today the school is run by U.S. and Australian military personnel acting as advisors.

Most of the instructors are Iraqi military



Iraqi Soldiers, students at the Iraqi Army Supply Services Institute conduct inventory of tools they signed.

personnel, who have been through the courses already.

The curriculum is an “amalgamation” of the U.S. and Australian service support doctrines, which are very similar, said Capt. Dominik U. Nogic, an officer training team advisor at the Iraqi Army Supply Services Institute.

The school falls under the Coalition Military Assistance Transition Team, falling under Multi-National Security Transitional Command - Iraq.

That is where they get most of their budget from, said Marine Lt. Col. Philip A. Colborn, an aviator, who is now the officer in charge of the school.

They are hoping to double the number of Soldiers they can train at a time by the end of this year.

“One of the things that will help make or break the Iraqi Army is their service and support infrastructure,” Nogic said.

“If we can continue to push out officers who are competent in those areas, it will greatly increase the chances of the Iraqis being able to provide security for their own country.”

Minister of Interior hosts conference on human rights

By Ann Bertucci
Civilian Police Advisory Training
Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Under the banner “Ministry of Interior: Enforcing the law and protecting human rights,” Iraq’s Interior Minister Bayan Jabor hosted a conference for senior Ministry of Interior (MoI) leadership Oct. 24. The event was held in cooperation with the Ministries of Human Rights and Justice.

Conference attendees included the Deputy Ministers for police affairs, intelligence, technical operations, administration, financial affairs, support forces, commanders of the police commandos and public order battalion, general manager of traffic, manager of patrol police, law counselor, as well as police chiefs from areas throughout Iraq.

In remarks to conference participants, Jabor pointed to the trial of Saddam Hussein as an example of a free and stable

Iraq where human rights are afforded to everyone, even those who denied the rights of others.

When asked by a reporter how it is possible to fight terrorism while protecting the rights of terrorists, Jabor said Iraq is not easy on terrorists. He expressed confidence that the Interior Ministry could operate within the law while still enforcing the law. The terrorists will have to answer to the law, he said.

The Minister of Human Rights, Nermin Othman, referred to the conference as the path to a new Iraq and affirmed that all complaints of human rights abuse would be investigated with complete transparency in the spirit of the law.

Citing Iraq’s criminal law as being one of the best in the world, Justice Minister Abdul Hussein Shandal highlighted improvements in the judicial system in Iraq with laws that are specific and detailed. “We now have a clean slate with which to operate from; one where rights

are preserved,” he said.

Conference participants studied the tenuous relationship between enforcing the law during the challenges of a violent insurgency and the protection of human rights. Participants concluded the event with a statement ensuring that all agencies under the Ministry of Interior will adhere to the principles of human rights as stated in the International Declaration of Human Rights.

The creation of two committees was also announced; the first will deal with detainees’ health and welfare conditions and the second to examine the legality of arrest warrants and investigations.

The event held special significance for attendees in that it took place during the holy period of Ramadan and on the anniversary of the United Nations Charter, which was signed on this day in 1945. This was the second meeting by the Interior Ministry as a forum on human rights.

\$625K sewer system started in Mosul suburb

By Claude D. McKinney
Gulf Region North
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MOSUL — By next spring, Al-Zharaa, a suburb of Mosul, will have a below-ground, pipe-enclosed sewer system installed to replace the surface flow system operating today. Workers are digging the first mile of trenches, and pipe is pre-positioned to make this modernization a reality.

The replacement system will bring improved sanitation and health conditions to more than 700,000 of Mosul's 1.5 million residents. Additionally, this project, overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Gulf Region North, will stimulate the economy by bringing \$625,000 to the city in the form of worker salaries, supply requirements, and other



Courtesy photo

Workers are digging the first mile of trenches and pipe is pre-positioned to modernize the Al-Zharaa sewer system in a Mosul suburb.

services associated with construction projects.

"This new sewer will go a long way to improve the living conditions of the citizens of Mosul," said Lee Kenderdine, USACE Mosul office resident engineer.

"It is this type of reconstruction project that shows the common citizens of Iraq that a better life is coming."

This type of major civic project is coordinated and directed in partnership with local Iraqi officials.

Americans, Iraqis to repair water treatment facility



U.S. Army photos by Capt. Ryan Avila

Capt. Stacy Purifoy, 4th Brigade Troops Bn., 4th BCT, 3rd ID answers questions from the Iraqi press. Purifoy is the contract supervisor for the project.

By 4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Efforts are under way to improve the water supply for Iraqis living in southern Baghdad.

Soldiers assigned to 4th Brigade Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division sponsored a media event Oct. 27 to showcase the beginning of a project to

repair the facilities at the Quadiciyah Water Treatment Plant.

The 4th BCT Infrastructure Coordination Element recently awarded a restoration project of the plant to a local engineering contracting team. When complete, the facility will provide potable water to three neighborhoods as well as residents in the International Zone.



The Iraqi project manager explains the renovation project scope of work to members of the media at the Quadiciyah water treatment plant Oct. 27.

New Theater Internment Facility opens in northern Iraq

AL-SULAMANIYA — Fort Suse, the newest Theater Internment Facility, recently began operations with the arrival of Task Force 33 on Oct. 17 and the arrival of the first 50 security detainees on Oct. 24.

Construction began Aug. 3 at Fort Suse, an old Russian-built military training facility. Fort Suse is approximately 40 acres in size and will house 1,700 to 2,000 security detainees.

Fort Suse, which is located in northeastern Iraq, was built in 1977 for the Iraqi military and was selected as the most cost-effective means to create additional detention space.

MNF-I spent \$8 million to renovate the facility, greatly improving the security and living conditions for detainees.



Courtesy photos

The newest Theater Internment Facility at Fort Suse recently opened with the arrival of 50 detainees.





U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Patrick J. Dixon

Iraq Army 8th Division soldiers off load from a Polish MI8 helicopter during an Air Assault exhibition, Oct. 24, at Camp Echo.



Iraqis taking the lead



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

Above, a member of the Saqalawiyah Iraqi Police hands an Iraqi flag to a young boy at Saqalawiyah Primary School for Boys Oct. 10. There are currently more than 1,200 Iraqi police in and around the city of Fallujah. Above right, a young boy at Saqalawiyah Primary School for Boys returns to his class after receiving a backpack and Iraqi flag.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Bryson K. Jones

Iraqi Soldiers participates in a squad infantry tactics in East Fallujah.